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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/023,839	12/21/2001	Richard Derose	022650-685	4793
7590	04/20/2005		EXAMINER	
Norman H. Stepno BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P. P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, VA 22313-1404			HELMER, GEORGIA L	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		1638	

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/023,839	DEROSE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Georgia L. Helmer	1638

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____.

Office Action

Status of the Claims

1. The Office acknowledges receipt of Applicants Response; dated 2 November 2004, and of Applicant's terminal disclaimer over US 6,388, 961.
2. Applicant has amended claim 1. Claim 1 is pending, and is examined in the instant action.
3. This action is made FINAL necessitated by Applicant's amendment.
4. All rejections not addressed below have been withdrawn.
5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112-written description

6. Claim 1 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicant traverses that the invention of claim 1 as amended, is described in the specification by reference to representative species described there and taken together with the information in the specification and the examples of how to make and use the claimed invention (Response, p. 6), citing Example 2, parts 2 and 3, wherein two different representative histone H3.3 genes from *Arabidopsis thaliana* are exemplified. Applicant states that all introns have consensus sequences in the 5' and 3' splice sites

and these are known to the skilled person as evidenced by Sinibaldi, 1992 (Response, p. 7). Applicant's traversal is unpersuasive. Applicant has not provided any structure associated with the claimed invention. Applicant has described the 5' intron from two *Arabidopsis thaliana* H3.3 genes isolated by them. Applicant has not defined a size or size range of the 5' region in which the expected 5' intron would occur; thousands of kb of DNA are 5' to the claimed sequence. Nor has Applicant defined a size range of an expected intron.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112-enablement

7. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

8. Claim 1 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Applicant traverses that the experimentation would not be undue because the H3.3 histone genes are a very highly conserved family of amino acid sequences and can be thereby identified (Response, p. 9). Given that the claimed intron is known to be in the 5' region of the gene, the existence of intron consensus sequences, together

with the H3.3 conservation would allow the identification of other such sequences.

Applicant provides (Exhibit A) a BLAST search which "show that the histone H3.3 from rice and vine share 100% identity with the one of *Arabidopsis thaliana* from which the intron disclosed in the Examples. Applicant's traversal is unpersuasive. Applicant has provided information on the 5' regions of two H3.3 histone genes of *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a dicot angiosperm. Applicant's information (Exhibits) provided on the DNA sequence similarity of the H3.3 gene themselves does not enable all plant 5' H3.3 introns. It is further noted that the sequence from rice is of a "putative" H3.3.

Therefore, given the breadth of the claims; the lack of guidance; the unpredictability in the art; and the state-of-the-art as discussed above, undue experimentation would be required to practice the claimed invention, and therefore the invention is not enabled throughout the broad scope of the claims.

Remarks

9. No claim is allowed.
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Georgia L. Helmer whose telephone number is 571-272-0976. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amy Nelson can be reached on 571-272-0804. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Georgia L. Helmer
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1638
23 June 2004



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